



Dr. Raymond Green (right) and Melvin Carlile, Sons of Utah Pioneers, set a memorial marker in cement, marking the grave of Tommy, the son of Indian Chief Tabby. Theo Daybell had to saw the roots of the more than 120-year-old tree so one of the stones marking the grave, which was dislodged by the wind, could be set in proper place.

Sons of Utah Pioneers Mark Grave of Indian Chief's Son

The local Sons of the Utah Pioneers erected a brass memorial marker at the site of a grave in the Heber City cemetery in which the son of an Indian chief was buried about 120 years ago. The marker was set in place the Friday before Memorial Day.

The son of Chief Tabby, who in 1867 signed the peace treaty ending the Black Hawk Wars, is buried under the tallest pine tree, the northeastern tree of the group of pines in the center of the cemetery. The grave is marked at each end with a stone and it is horizontal to all the other graves.

The marker briefly tells the story of the burial. Dr. Raymond Green, a member of the SUP and historian, tells every fascinating detail that led up to the unusual burial. The following is a condensed version of Dr. Green's account:

The first Mormon settlers, who arrived in the Provo River Valley (Heber Valley) in 1859, and immediately built a fort to protect themselves from harassment by the

unrest kept the settlers behind the fort walls.

Joseph Stacy Murdock (June 26, 1822 - February 14, 1899), appointed by LDS Church President Brigham Young as the spiritual leader of the Mormon settlers in the Provo River Valley (Heber Valley), rescued two Indian children at the mouth of Provo Canyon, a boy and a girl, from an Indian who was headed to Mexico to sell them into slavery. He brought them to his home (across the street from the North School in Heber) to his first wife, who had not been able to bear children during their seven years of marriage. They reared them as their own and, in fact, educated them better than any of the thirty-two children Mr. Murdock eventually fathered.

When the Indian girl, Pernetta, was eighteen a young man of dispute courted her. Bishop Murdock was so dismayed that he went to President Young for counseling.

President Young followed his advice to make the girl his fifth wife. President

Bishop Murdock sealed the agreement with a gift to Chief Tabby of 50 to 100 head of cattle. Not only was the treaty kept, the two became friends, and the settlers came out from behind the fort walls.

One day, not long afterward, Bishop Murdock looked up toward Daniel Canyon and saw a small band of Indians coming toward the settlement. As they neared, he recognized Chief Tabby and saw that he was leading a pony carrying the body of a boy.

Chief Tabby went to Bishop Murdock's home and told him the boy was his son, Tommy, killed in a hunting accident. He requested a Mormon funeral and Bishop Mur-

dock conducted graveside services. The grave was next planted by one of Bishop Murdock's sons a few years earlier.

Then Chief Tabby, who was also like an Indian boy, was brought to Indian traditions. He was buried with the boy. But the boy was not big enough, so they cut a log out of cedar wood, slit it down the middle, and burned it over the boy's body.

Although Christ was not born in the United States, he was buried in an east-west position. Tommy was laid in a north-south position in his grave, according to Indian custom.

Heber Valley Powwow To Be Featured on KUTV

7-1-89

R. Raymond Green, M.D.
375 East 2nd North
Heber, Utah 84032

DATE

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING CHART

STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE

NO. 1 ON THIS CHART IS
THE SAME PERSON AS NO. _____
ON CHART NO. _____

Tommy TABBY

PEDIGREE CHART

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Chief TABBY

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DIED
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NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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DIED
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3 BORN
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DIED
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6 BORN
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CHIEF TABBY

peace if we would kill a man in Sanpete County named Sloan. Of course, we could not agree to this, and after more talk, Tabby agreed to take the cattle and make peace as far as he was concerned.

"That evening it was my turn to stand guard and the Indians began to shout and yell as they stood around their campfire, and they all seemed to be very much excited. I reported to Captain Wall that they surely intended to kill us. When Tabby heard the noise he went to their campfire and said 'What's the matter with you Indians? You know I have made peace with the Mormons. Stop your shouting.'

"Tabby told us in going home to keep right in the wagon road and go as quickly as possible as he was afraid his Indians might shoot us as he could hardly restrain them."

When Captain Wall and his company returned home after 12 days, they found an alarmed and anxious community. Because of the long absence a search party had been organized and was ready to leave. Their anxiety had been heightened when one of the company's horses returned to Heber with a bullet wound, and they supposed that the owner, John Acomb, had either been killed or wounded.

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

CONT. ON CHART _____